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Funding Approved for Child Care Center Within Raleigh County Airport Business and Industrial Park

Morgantown, WV – May 19, 2006: State Director Robert M. Steptoe, III, today announced that **Rural Development** approved a Community Facilities Loan of \$676,000 and Grant of \$50,000 for Stepping Stones Academy at the Woodlands, Inc., Raleigh County, WV.

Rural Development funds will be used to construct a 7,800 sq. ft. child care center to be located within the Raleigh County Airport Business and Industrial Park.

"Child care is a crucial service for our communities and this new facility will allow Stepping Stones Academy at the Woodlands, Inc., to expand its child development efforts to 100 children," stated Steptoe.

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its rural housing programs, rural business programs, and rural utilities programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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